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Pakistan's Guantanamo Bay?

Seven-year-old Saud Bugti's father was picked up by secret police on a street corner in Karachi last November. No one has heard from him since. He has joined the ranks of Pakistan's 'disappeared' - victims of the country's brutal attempts to wage war on both Al Qaeda and those who fail to support the government. But how many innocent people are being caught up in this? And what is America's connection to the barbaric torture of suspects?

Report by DECLAN WALSH

THEY vanish quietly and quickly. Some are dragged from their beds in front of their terrified families. Others are hustled off the streets into a waiting van, or yanked from a bus at a lonely desert junction. A windowless world of sweat and fear awaits. In dark cells, nameless men bark questions. The men brandish rubber whips, clenched fists, whirring electric drills, pictures of Osama bin Laden. The ordeal can last weeks, months or years.

These are Pakistan's disappeared - men and women who have been abducted, imprisoned and in some cases tortured by the country's all-powerful intelligence agencies.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has counted 400 cases since 2002; it estimates hundreds more people may have been snatched.

The phenomenon started with the great sweeps for Al Qaeda suspects after September 11, 2001 but has dramatically increased in recent years, and now those who disappear include homogenous "enemies of the state" - poets, doctors, housewives and nuclear scientists, accused of terrorism, treason and murder.

Guilty or innocent, it's hard to know, because not one has appeared before a court.

An angry Pakistani public wants to know why. The disappearances are increasingly perceived as Pakistan's Guantanamo Bay - a malignant outgrowth of the "war on terror".

Last month, the issue moved centre stage with the showdown between President Pervez Musharraf and Pakistan's chief justice, Iftikhar Mohamed Chaudhry.

Many believe the judge is being victimised for championing the cases of the disappeared. "These are Gestapo tactics," says Iqbal Haider, a former minister. "The more we protest, the more innocent people are being hurt."

Prisoners picked at random

For Abid Zaidi it started with a phone call one afternoon last April. The softly spoken 26-year-old was at work at Karachi University's department of zoology in a cavernous room of stuffed animals, sagging skeletons and yellowing name tags. The voice on the phone instructed him to report to Saddar police station in the city centre.

There, a handful of men were waiting for him; he believes they belonged to Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the army's powerful spy agency. They clapped cuffs on his wrists, wrapped a band around his eyes and drove him to a cell. Then, he says, the torture started.

The men beat him, he says, with a chain, until he collapsed. He was brought to a military hospital; three doctors brushed off his pleas for help. Then he was flown to another detention centre, where he was shown graphic images of torture.

"People's skin was being removed with knives and blades and they were being drilled," he says. "It was really terrible."

Then they hung him upside down from a butcher's hook, his face dipping into a pool of sewage water.

The interrogators wanted Zaidi to admit his involvement in the Nishat Park bombings. In early April, a suicide bomber had killed 50 people at a Sunni religious gathering in central Karachi.

The officials accused Zaidi, a prominent young Shia, of orchestrating the massacre. Zaidi tried to explain he was more interested in zoology than zealotry. They did not believe him.

In July, an official told him he had been sentenced to hang. Zaidi wrote a will. "I felt at peace because I knew God was with me," he says. But it was a ruse.

At 4am on the morning of the "execution", having refused to admit his guilt, a dramatic reprieve was announced. Shortly afterwards, he underwent a lie detector test and on August 18 he was flown to Karachi.

The blindfold was lifted. Zaidi was driven through the city. The car stopped, a man handed him Rs200 (\$3.50) and pushed the car door open. "He said, 'Don't open your eyes,' says Zaidi. When the engine noise had receded, he found himself standing at a bus stop near Karachi University. He got down on his knees and prayed. Then he phoned his brother to take him home.

Zaidi's account cannot be verified because, officially speaking, he was never in government custody. However a senior police officer familiar with the case



From left: German national Abdul Karim Abdul Haq, Bangladeshi Ghulam Kabria and Iranian Sikandar Aziz sit in a vehicle following their release from a jail in Peshawar last week. A court in Peshawar ordered the release of the three after they were proved innocent in charges of working for Al Qaeda.

describes it as a major embarrassment.

"That boy was picked up by a young officer," says the official, who asks not to be named. "The police knew it was the wrong guy. But they refused to listen."

Famed and feared ISI

The ISI is the most powerful arm of Pakistan's intelligence establishment, commonly referred to as "the agencies". Founded by a British army officer in 1948 and headquartered at an anonymous concrete block in Islamabad, the ISI is famed and feared in equal part.

Its influence soared during the 1980s, when it smuggled vast amounts of American-funded weapons to mujahideen guerrillas fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan. More recently, it has organised guerrilla groups fighting Indian troops in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

The other major agencies in Pakistan are Military Intelligence and the civilian Intelligence Bureau, and all three of these major agencies have variously been accused of rigging elections, extra-judicial assassinations and other dirty tricks.

But until 9/11, disappearances were rare. Then, in late 2001, as Al Qaeda fugitives fled from Afghanistan into Pakistan, Musharraf ordered that the agencies show full co-operation to the FBI, CIA and other US security agencies. In return, the Americans would give them equipment, expertise and money.

Suddenly, Pakistan's agencies had sophisticated devices to trace mobile phones, bug houses and telephone calls, and monitor large volumes of e-mail traffic. "Whatever it took to improve the Pakistanis' technical ability to find Al Qaeda fighters, we were there to help them," says Michael Scheuer, a former head of the CIA's Osama bin Laden unit.

An official with an American organisation says he once received a startling demonstration of the ISI's new capabilities. Driving down a street inside a van with ISI operatives, he could monitor phone conversations taking place in every house they passed. "It was very impressive, and really quite spooky," he says.

A matter of pride

The Al Qaeda hunt became a matter of considerable pride for President Bush's close friend, the president of Pakistan. "We have captured 672 and handed over 369 to the United States. We have earned bounties totalling millions of dollars," wrote

Musharraf in his autobiography *In the Line of Fire* last year. (The boast sparked outrage at home in Pakistan and was scrubbed from later Urdu-language versions of his book.)

Prize captures included the alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohamed, who has apparently confessed to a string of terror plots after four years as a captive, and Abu Faraj al-Libbi, another alleged bin Laden lieutenant. But certain innocents were also swept up in the dragnet.

Brothers Zain and Kashan Afzal, for example, were detained and beaten many times over eight months by Pakistani agents convinced they belonged to Al Qaeda. Zain, now 25, remembers that, in between the thrashings, "the FBI wallahs" - a woman and two men - would come to visit.

"They showed me a picture of Osama and asked if I knew him," he says at his home in Karachi. "I told them I had only seen him on television." As American citizens - the brothers were born in the US, where their father lives - they might have expected better treatment. Instead, they got threats.

"The Americans said if we did not tell them everything, they would send us to Guantanamo Bay," says Zain.

The physical damage has healed - Zain suffered a burst cardiacum - but the mental scars remain.

"He hears voices in the night coming to take him away again," says his wife Sara. The couple agreed to meet the *Guardian* and give their first newspaper interview in an attempt to press their case for a new American passport.

Despite numerous entreaties, the US consulate in Karachi has stonewalled requests to re-issue their passports, which were confiscated during their arrest. "I am scared because of what has happened," says Sara. A US embassy spokeswoman in Islamabad declines to comment on their case.

Quiet support from US

The truth is that the American government still quietly supports the disappearances of Al Qaeda suspects, says Ali Dayan Hasan of Human Rights Watch, which has documented many cases.

"The abuse has become even more brazen because of US complicity," he says. He claims that American officials are regular visitors to ISI safehouses in Islamabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi where torture has occurred.

They have supervised interrogations

from behind one-way mirrors, he says. In FBI internal documents, he says, torture is referred to as "locally acceptable forms of interrogation".

In its annual human rights report published recently, the US State Department acknowledged the disappearances but skirted around the US's own role. "The country experienced an increase in disappearances of provincial activists and political opponents," it noted.

In fact, most recent disappearances have nothing to do with Al Qaeda. To quell an insurgency in Baluchistan - a vast western province with massive oil and gas reserves - the agencies, in particular Military Intelligence, have rounded up hundreds of suspected rebels in the past two years.

Musharraf's officials swart the issue away with blunt denials. "I can say with authority that these people are not with any agency or government department," says Brigadier Iqbal Cheema, head of the "crisis management cell", which spearheads anti-terror operations, at the Interior Ministry.

Renewed focus

But the current confrontation with the chief justice has brought a renewed focus. Last November, Chaudhry, the chief justice, ordered the agencies to "find" 41 people who had gone missing. Subsequently, half were quietly released. But the court actions have mostly just underlined the impotence of the civilian institutions in the face of a powerful military machine.

Meanwhile, tearful relatives are left grasping for even a shred of news. Qazim Bugti, the mayor of Dera Bugti, a small town in Baluchistan, was picked up last November. His wife Asmat, left behind to look after their five children, weeps when she talks of her husband's disappearance.

"Does President Musharraf not have children of his own? Would he like to see them treated like this?" she says in the family's Karachi apartment.

Abid Zaidi, the zoology student from Karachi, has also learned the price of going public. In late October, he travelled to Islamabad to describe his ordeal before a press conference organised by Amnesty International.

Shortly afterwards he was picked up again, this time by men in uniform. Zaidi says they were flushed with anger. "They told me: 'Next time, we will not pick you up. We will kill you.'" - *Guardian News & Media*



Lawyers and supporters of opposition parties Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) shout anti-government slogans outside the High Court during a protest against the suspension of Pakistan's top judge in Lahore last week. The protests were held as part of the 'Save the Judiciary campaign' following the removal of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohamed Chaudhry by President Musharraf for alleged abuse of office.

Shia, Sunni baker duo relishes success story

By Sophie Mongalvy

ONE is an Iraqi Sunni, the other an Iranian Shia. Both have fled a war-torn home to start their new life in Sweden. Now business partners in their new home of Sweden, they have made a life for themselves by venturing into traditional Swedish pastry-making.

Their success story is called Grandma's Bakery (Mormors Bageri), founded 12 years ago.

Today, the two immigrants - Farhad Akhondipour, an Iranian Shia, and Zozek Mohamed, an Iraqi Sunni - run a small chain of typical Swedish-style cafes and bakeries.

"At the beginning, we had one stone oven, one pastry mixer, and a table," recalls Akhondipour, 49, a broad smile spreading across his face as he sits down at a table at one of his cafes in Lund in south Sweden.

The company has grown and now counts three cafes with on-site bakeries, 40 employees and a production site where large orders are prepared for customers from such as multinationals Ericsson and Tetra Pak.

Grandma's Bakery had sales of 190m krona (\$1.04m euros, \$2.71m) in 2006, and expects that number to rise to 25 to 30m this year.

Akhondipour came to Lund in 1979 to study engineering, but never moved back home because of the war between Iran and Iraq. He was importing pistachios, but the two decided to go into business together.

"I had 75 kronor in my pocket when I arrived in

Sweden," Mohamed says in fluent Swedish. He came to the country with his parents when he was 20 to join his brother, and the family immediately set to work to find jobs and learn Swedish.

Akhondipour says he inherited his business sense from his family.

"My mother, my father, everyone is in business ... It's in my blood," he says, elbows propped on the table and a high-tech bluetooth phone hooked to his ear.

The decision to start a bakery-cum-cafe was an Akhondipour, one says Akhondipour, given the Swedish tradition of "fika", or morning and afternoon coffee breaks, and Swedes' love of cafes for breakfast, lunch, fika or light evening meals.

"Today there are 120,000 people in Lund, and everyone

has a stomach that needs filling three times a day! It's a good market," he says.

"We wanted our products to be a bit different, a bit special, since we're a bit different than others," says Akhondipour.

Different from Swedes yes, but still very much at home in Sweden. "I'm an immigrant in Iraq!" jokes Mohamed.

He admits that his first months in Sweden were filled with a sense of loneliness and isolation. But he insists that immigrants can only integrate

into their new culture by opening themselves up to what their new homeland has to offer. "The theory subject of religion - which divides parts of the Muslim world - is not an issue for the Shia and Sunni business partners.

"That conflict has existed for many years. You can choose to continue the conflict or not," says Mohamed.

"We don't have time for this conflict, we do too much work to do," adds Akhondipour. - AFP

Farhad Akhondipour, co-owner of Mormors Bageri (Grandma's Bakery) is pictured in his shop in Lund, Sweden.



Zozek Mohamed (left) and an employee bake pastries.



Collaborations keep the auto industry moving

Nearly all of the biggest automakers are in cahoots to build everything from navigation systems and engines to entire cars, writes KATIE MERX

RENAULT-NISSAN hooking up with GM? GM buying Chrysler? GM and Chrysler making SUVs or minivans together? Big headlines over talk of grand corporate-level response alliances – or modest ones – are enough to make the discussions sound like rare occurrences. But it turns out that nearly all of the world's largest automakers are in cahoots with each other to build everything from navigation systems and engines to entire cars.

And the number of alliances is expected to grow. "This has really become a part of their strategies for the last couple of years," said David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor. "It's driven primarily by the tremendous costs of many parts of the business, particularly the powertrain."

The powertrain encompasses the engine, transmission and other systems that make your vehicle move. Anyone who's had to fix an engine or have a transmission rebuilt knows they're not cheap. Developing new versions and experimenting with new technologies is particularly costly.

Some of the high-profile powertrain alliances under way today are: General Motors Corp and Ford Motor Co working together to develop a six-speed transmission.

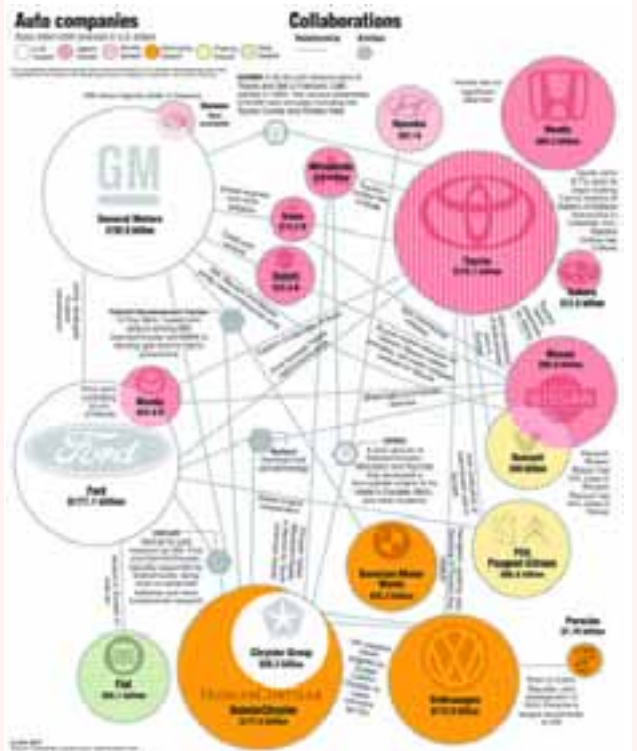
DaimlerChrysler AG, Hyundai Motor Co and Mitsubishi Motors Corp jointly running the Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance to build 4-cylinder engines in Dundee and elsewhere.

GM, DaimlerChrysler and BMW AG working together in Troy to develop a two-mode hybrid system.

Ford and DaimlerChrysler working together with Ballard Power Systems Inc to develop fuel-cell technology.

But there are alliances to share navigation and telematics systems, too. Several Japanese automakers use the Toyota Motor Corp – developed telematics system called G-Book.

And there are even some alliances in which fierce competitors build cars together or



for each other. One of the longest-standing alliances is a 23-year-old joint venture in Fremont, California, between GM and Toyota Motor Corp, called New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.

Currently, NUMMI builds the Pontiac Vibe, Toyota Tacoma pickup and Toyota Corolla. Ford and Mazda have a joint venture in Flat Rock called AutoAlliance, where they build the Ford Mustang and Mazda6.

And the Chrysler Group plans to build minivans for Volkswagen. "NUMMI was one of the early big alliances," Cole said. "It has been really, quite successful. GM's focus was learning the Toyota Production System ... And for Toyota, which is a very conservative company, to move in a partnership with GM really helped them ease into the US culture."

Automotive alliances have been occurring here and there for some time, Cole said.

Most of the discussions are very private and never get above the surface," Cole said. "There are ongoing discussions between senior officials. And for Toyota, which is a very conservative company, to move in a partnership with GM really helped them ease into the US culture."

For that reason, he said, there probably is some foundation behind the speculation that GM and the Chrysler Group have been talking about an alliance.

Since DaimlerChrysler Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche made it clear in February that the German automaker is considering unloading the Chrysler Group, rumours have swirled that GM and Chrysler are discussing the possibilities of a grand corporate alliance or simply an alliance in which the automakers would fill gaps in each other's inlays.

Both automakers have declined to comment on the speculation, even as DaimlerChrysler presented a sales prospectus on the Chrysler Group to potential private equity investors.

"When they say 'no comment' that says they're probably talking," Cole said. "This whole idea of collaboration alliances is very much a part of the emerging business

model because – and this is true for everybody – we're resource-short."

Jim Sanfilippo, executive vice president at Automotive Marketing Consultants in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, said the industry needs to pursue more of these collaborations.

"This is an industry that has grown logarithmically around the world," Sanfilippo said. "Somewhere along the way,

these alliances become a way to a more manageable downsizing, to a better use of capacity."

GM Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner told the *Detroit Free Press* in January that opportunities abound, but the challenge is to participate only in those alliances that will provide strong returns on investment.

"What you learn ... if you sit down with almost any other manufacturer in the world, is

that if the two of you sit down and work ... together, you can create value for both," Wagoner said. "The issue you have to manage is, you can't manage a million of those, so where are the highest value opportunities for us and our shareholders?"

But the economics of the business, he said, are driving automakers "toward these kinds of focused co-operations." It's clear from looking at the dozens of alliances that

touch every automaker except Honda Motor Co that these alliances will continue, said auto analyst Catherine Madden, of consultancy Global Insight.

"There's a lot of risk associated with research and development and low-volume," Madden said.

"I think obviously we can expect alliances to continue. There are huge economies of scale to be gained." – *Detroit Free Press' MCT*

Safety combines with style on Mini Cooper S

TIME for revitalisation. A new think and a new look.

The new version Mini has been around for some time now so it should be time for a new model. Well, that model is now here.



completely new Mini Cooper and Mini Cooper S have arrived. The whole shooting match has been completely revamped, but both are still very recognisable as iconic Minis. Numerous improvements and upgrades have been made, particularly with the power plant.

The Mini Cooper engine displaces 1.6 litres and combines superior driving pleasure with truly outstanding all-round economy.

Maximum output of 88 kW/120 hp comes at 6,000 rpm, with the torque curve reaching a significant 140 Nm/103 lb-ft at just 2,000 rpm and continuing to a peak of 160 Nm/118 lb-ft at 4,250 rpm. This agile two-door machine reaches 100 km/h in 9.1 seconds, with a top speed of 203 km/h. This is up on the old model which had just 115 hp.

The real difference however shows with the Mini Cooper S which is a 1.6-litre turbocharged power unit and gives particularly impressive performance on the road. Maximum output of 128 kW/175 hp and a specific output of 109.5 hp/litre with acceleration to 100 km/h in 7.1 seconds gives a top speed of 225 km/h. These are figures which definitely set the standard for a four-cylinder light-alloy power unit in this class.

The engines in the Mini are all in-line four cylinder 16 valve with the engine blocks of grey iron with aluminium cylinder heads. Electronic fuel injection is right across the range.

The turbocharged 1.6 petrol engine in the Cooper S has tremendous mid-range shove and has a real urge to get going. Although there is a slight lag as the turbocharger gets into its stride, it is flexible and the six-speed manual gearbox shifts smoothly. There is an auto 'box' option.

The Cooper S version has a stiffer suspension than other Minis with even sharper handling. It has a real go-kart feel, with the kind of grip, poise and agility expected from much pricier, sportier cars. The Mini's compact dimensions make it extremely agile too, while the steering is responsive and communicative. The ride is firm, but not unacceptably so.

The engine is docile around town and does not become coarse when revved hard. The dashboard is dominated by a huge central speedo that can hardly be missed, but some of the switchgear will be clearer, particularly the all-silver stereo and heater controls and the retro toggle switches. It all looks good, and a wide range of adjustment for the steering wheel and well shaped seats mean that it is easy to get comfortable.

The Mini is a four-seater, but those sitting in the back should not be a large 'economy size', because legroom is limited. There is plenty of space for those in the front, however. The boot is a little bigger than that of the car it replaces, but it is still small, with room for just a couple of holdalls.

All models have alloy wheels, electric mirrors and windows, a CD player and six airbags. Cooper S cars gain sportier styling, seats and suspension as well as stability control.

Part of the sheer enjoyment of driving any of the Mini series is the go-kart feeling of being close to the ground, travelling at speed but very definitely in control. A quick glance at the Mini will show that the wheels are at each corner, which is one of the reasons why so much space is available. In common with almost all modern vehicles, safety occupies a large part of the design.

Mini Cooper S

BRIEFS

VW to launch new Golf in 2008

VOLKSWAGEN is planning to launch a revamped version of the Golf next year, the mass circulation *BMW* newspaper reports. The sixth generation of the popular compact car comes with new headlights, a large chrome grille and an altogether sleeker design, the newspaper said. A VW spokesman in Wolfsburg refused to confirm or deny the report. "We in principle do not comment on such speculation," he said. Part of the VW cost-cutting strategy is to reduce the choice of engines in the Golf series and the number of technical gadgets. In turn the car maker is planning to fit the new Golf with more high-quality interior materials and offer air conditioning as standard for all Golf models. The engine range starts with the Frugal 1.4-litre turbo petrol engine with an output of 120 hp. Production of the current 75 hp and 102 hp engines would cease, the *BMW* report said. The entry model sells in Germany at 16,160 euros but the price of the new Golf is expected to be well above 17,000 euros.

Bentley Continental GT is fastest car on ice

AKKANKUNNEN has broken the world ice speed record on a stretch of frozen sea off Finland. The record was set last month when the Bentley averaged a speed of 199.86 miles per hour (321.65 km/h) over two runs – considerably quicker than the previous world ice speed record of 184.4 mph set up at the same location north of Oulu by a Bugatti EB110 sports car. To achieve the record, Kankkunen's personal Continental GT was fitted with special spiked snow tyres and a roll cage and underwent a number of aerodynamic modifications as standard for all Golf models. On Kankkunen told journalists afterwards that the car felt safe during the run, even though he suffered considerable wheelspin above 120 mph. "The Bentley performed impeccably," said Kankkunen. "I was amazed how stable and secure it felt at these high speeds, despite the track's rough and icy surface being scatered with powdery snow." The car, which weighs two metric tonnes, was fielded in largely unmodified form using a standard engine and gearbox. It ran on standard fuel, with some adjustments made to cope with the extremely low temperatures.

Drivers confuse real roads with games

DRIVERS who are habitual computer racing-game players are more aggressive on the roads and could pose a hazard in real-life traffic, according to new research. The findings, by researchers in Germany, indicate that people who seldom or never play motor racing games are more cautious drivers. Psychologists found that motor racing game players were more likely to drive aggressively when they got behind a real wheel and be involved in crashes. Researchers also showed that after playing just one virtual racing game men took greater risks in critical traffic situations on a computer simulator. The team, led by Dr Peter Fischer, from Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, questioned 198 randomly chosen men and 92 women aged 16 to 45 about their driving behaviour, accident record and the extent to which they played racing games. After adjusting for factors more likely to affect the results, such as age, the researchers found that frequent virtual race playing was associated with more aggressive and competitive driving behaviour, and a higher number of accidents. – DPA

NZ invention prevents nose-to-tail crashes

An ingenious New Zealand invention designed to reduce nose-to-tail vehicle accidents by setting a car's hazard lights flashing whenever the driver brakes suddenly is about to be introduced to the rest of the world.

"The faster you stop the faster the lights flash," says inventor Stewart Andrews whose matchbox-sized BrakeSafe device has been hailed by New Zealand transport authorities as the most innovative road safety measure in years.

Andrews says that while a car's brake lamps automatically light up whenever the driver presses the brake pedal, the illumination is the same whether it is slowing gently or braking hard and about to make an emergency stop.

"A following driver has no further information to assist in deciding how hard his braking response should be," he adds. "The time delay this lack of information causes clearly results in many nose/tail collisions that cause death, injury and vehicle damage."

Even in New Zealand, a country of only 4.2m, there are 80 nose-to-tail collisions every, one-in-10 of them causing death or injury. Repairs are estimated to cost about \$20.4m a year and medical and emergency services twice that amount.

Andrews says his system does not just one "rear-end" but reduces multiple nose-to-tail crashes because the flashing lights can be seen several vehicle lengths behind the initial impact.

The device is activated to flash five times a second for five seconds, at 0.7g of braking force.

Andrews quotes United States research showing that 60% of nose-to-tail crashes could be avoided if half-a-second was shaved off the average driver's reaction time.

Tests in New Zealand with the BrakeSafe device show the flashing lights produce an intuitive response from drivers faster than when they see a static illumination.

Although the French carmakers Renault and Peugeot have fitted devices to their braking systems which produce a similar response in New Zealand, the New Zealand invention has the advantage in that it can be installed to any vehicle of any age after production.

An auto-electrician can fit one in 20 minutes for \$N2250.

The device is being fitted to new cars added to the New Zealand government's public service fleet.

Andrews' company, DataBrake International, of Auckland, has patented the product in New Zealand and is seeking patents in Britain, Europe and Australia. – DPA



Hot wheels... Models present the Toyota concept car 'Hybrid' at the 28th Bangkok International Motor Show in Thailand. More than 300 companies, including 25 auto brands, are taking part in this year's show (March 30-April 8).

Mercedes builds new Pullman state limousine

MERCEDES is building a new Pullman luxury limousine with special protection features designed for heads of government, business leaders, monarchs and heads of state, the car manufacturer has announced.

The armoured Pullman is based on the long version of the S600 with a substantially extended wheelbase, providing extra roomness and a mobile office. Power comes from a 12-cylinder biturbo engine with a displacement

of 5513 cc, an output of 380kW/517 hp and a peak torque of 830 Nm. Behind the partition, there is space for four passengers in the rear compartment with luxurious face-to-face seats in true Pullman tradition.

According to Mercedes, the protection level is equivalent to standards tested and certified by state-approved organisations but includes other extras such as armour protection against fragments of hand grenades and other explosive devices. Additional safety features include run-flat tyres, a self-sealing fuel tank and a fire-extinguishing system.

Every new Mercedes-Benz S 600 Guard Pullman displays its own unique brand of styling including a wide choice of paint finishes, leathers and wood. Even the most unusual customer requests can be met, the car manufacturer says. The first editions of the new Mercedes-Benz State Limousine are due to be delivered in late 2008. Mercedes has not revealed a price yet. – DPA





Computech



System clean-ups for better performance

YOU'D be surprised at just how much better your computer can run when it is freed from the digital clutter that piles up on your hard drive over time. In some cases, your PC can go from sluggish to snappy without your having to reinstall everything from scratch. The only difficulty is finding all of the digital debris that needs to be removed. Read on for some tips.

Q: I've heard that when you delete files from your computer, they're not really gone. Does that mean they continue taking up space?

A: It's true that when you delete a file from your hard drive, an expert could recover it, assuming that it hasn't been overwritten by additional data. It's also true that in Windows, recently-deleted data is kept track of by the Recycle Bin, which allows you to restore the files to their original state and their original location.

The files kept track of by Recycle Bin do take up space—in some cases, a lot of space—and they can potentially slow down your computer by hogging disk space that would otherwise be used by your operating system to perform its best. If you don't manually empty the Recycle Bin periodically, over time you could find that deleted data is actually taking up gigabytes worth of space.

So your first stop in attempting to free up hard drive space should be to empty the Recycle Bin of data. To do so, right-click the Recycle Bin, and from the resulting pop-up menu, click Empty Recycle Bin. The process could take some time, depending on how much data is being kept track of.

Remember that when you empty the Recycle Bin, the files that are retrievable through it are probably lost to you for good. That's just another reason why it's a good idea always to have backups.

Q: My computer is running slower than it used to. Will uninstalling programs help?

A: Probably. Uninstalling unneeded software programs should be one of the first things you try when attempting to revive a system gone sluggish. Removing unnecessary software is a good idea not only because it frees up hard drive space, which can be used by your operating system as virtual memory, allowing it to run faster.

It's also a good idea because many software programs install memory-resident applets or tiny programs that start up whenever your computer does. These programs sit in memory the entire time you're using your PC, consuming clock cycles that otherwise could be used to give you the performance you expect. So from time to time, visit the Add/Remove Programs section of the Windows Control Panel and remove unnecessary software. After you remove lots of software, it's a good idea to reboot your computer to make sure everything still works as it should.

Q: How do I find any temporary files on my computer that can be deleted?

A: Temporary files are created by your operating system and applications while they are running. Later on, they are not needed. Unfortunately, temporary files sometimes are not removed, as when a system crash occurs. The result is lots of additional data that, over time, can take up a great deal of hard drive space and slow down your computer.

Thankfully, it's pretty easy to find temporary files. In Windows, click Start, Search, and in the All or Part of the File Name text box, type *.tmp. Select My Computer from the Look In dropdown list box. Click on the Search options, and select "Search hidden files and folders." Now click Search.

When the search is complete, select all of the files found by opening the Edit menu and choosing Select All. Now just press the Del key.

It's also a good idea from time to time to clear out the temporary files created by your Internet browser. In Internet Explorer, open the Tools menu, and click Internet Options. Click the Delete Files button, and in the following dialog box, select Delete All Offline content. Click OK, and the removal process will begin. Don't worry about losing data you might need. These temporary files can all be retrieved again should you revisit websites.

Once you've removed all of the unnecessary data cluttering your hard drive, you should notice improved performance. —DPA

GADGETS

TV tuner for Mac and 7 megapixel cameras

DINNACLE is now offering two external TV receivers for Mac computers. The Pinnacle TV for Mac DVB-T Stick can be plugged into the computer's USB 2.0 port to provide reception of digital terrestrial television (DVB-T). The Pinnacle TV for Mac Hybrid Stick lets the computer also receive analog television programs. Both models cost \$79 and \$119, respectively.

Leica presents new compact camera

VENERABLE camera maker Leica has announced the introduction of a new compact model for May. The Leica C-LUX 2 offers 7.2 megapixels of resolution and works with a new, high-speed optical image stabilizer that is also being used in the Digilux 3 digital SLR camera. The C-LUX 2 comes equipped with "Intelligent ISO" and automatic exposure control. The Leica C-LUX 2 is expected to sell for \$499.

New digital camera with 7.62cm display

HARDWARE maker Braun Photo Technik is presenting a new compact digital camera. The Braun D830 offers 7.2 megapixels of resolution and contains a display with a 7.62cm diagonal. The Nuremberg-based manufacturer reports that the 135g camera possesses a three-times optical zoom and 32MB of internal memory. It will be available starting in early April for \$219.

Credit card-sized MP3 player

IT'LL even fit in your billfold. Israeli hardware maker Walleto Microelectronics is releasing a wallet MP3 that is no more than 2.3mm thick. According to its makers, the device has a USB port and is even waterproof. And given that the unit offers up to 4GB of storage space. A version with 2GB will be available in June for \$69. —DPA

Surreal campaigns as French politics go virtual

By Sudip Kar-Gupta

FRENCH political debate is shifting from Left Bank cafes and being teleported into cyberspace. Instead of agreeing to disagree over a glass of kir, many French youths are sending their ideas flying through the computer-animated world of *Second Life*. "In here, you can see French people expressing themselves through avatars. Instead of being the hypocrites they often are in real life," said an avatar, or computer image, of what appeared to be a woman using the *Second Life* moniker of Hayahaya Milo.

Unconventional names and uncertain gender are just one of many surreal aspects of *Second Life*, the three-dimensional virtual world set up by US company Linden Labs that has attracted more than 2m registered users since opening in 2003. Users adopt a persona and computer simulation of a human to navigate the new world. They can choose at registration whether to appear as a man or a woman. Sometimes they fly or teleported to a venue, and some avatars' bodies have wings or horns. *Second Life's* appeal to many young people has seen political campaigns around the world join businesses in the scramble to set up shop in the online world and attract the youth vote.

Supporters of presidential frontrunner Nicolas Sarkozy, Socialist Segolene Royal and centrist Francois Bayrou, along with fans of National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen, have all staked out territory in cyberspace to drum up votes. Le Pen's site to discuss the *Second Life* venue, a shaven-headed and tattooed male avatar sported an orange T-shirt with the legend "Sexy Centrist".

With France's presidential elections set for April and May, Le Pen's site also added a dash of violent Gallic street protest to *Second Life*.

"National Front supporters launched a few attacks against us, but we can defend ourselves

IT MAY sound hard to believe, but a decade ago, Sun's Java computer language was one of the hottest topics in technology.

Netscape was going to write its new applications in Java, Java applets were starting to dominate the Web, universities and colleges were starting to teach it as their standard programming language, while its advocates and some of the more starry-eyed advocates and journalists imagined it overturning Microsoft.

All this turned James Gosling—who is considered the father of Java—into something of a superstar. In recognition of his achievements, he was recently awarded the Order of Canada, his country's highest honor. The insignia will be bestowed on him later this year. "I have to go and get whacked with a sword," says Gosling.

After the years of hype there came, inevitably, the years of backlash. Netscape dumped its Java programming efforts, and Java applets failed to make any impact on the Web. In 2001, a *Salon* online magazine headline called "Java slow, ugly and irrelevant," and in 2005, a *Business Week* article proclaimed: "Java? It's So Nineties."

Microsoft—locked out of Java after losing a lawsuit—developed its own Java-style language, C#, which became widely used, while most of the advocates moved on to trendy languages: Perl, Python, PHP, Ruby on Rails, Ajax, JSP, and so on.

Now things are, happily, coming back to a more even keel, so I was pleased to catch up with Gosling at the Java conference last month. He's a big man who speaks slowly, and at the end of a long day, he's as laid back as you can get in an upright chair.

The major development is that Sun is making its Java platform open source under the Free Software Foundation's GPL (general public license) following years of complaints by IBM, so I ask him if that's going to make any difference.

He points out that "Java has been functioning largely as an open source project for many years" and that "the source

code has been available for a long time." All Sun has done is switch to using "one of the more commonly accepted" open licenses.

"To be honest, the biggest thing we get is that a bunch of the important Linux distributions such as Debian can now put (Java) in the box," he says. As for IBM, "they've engaged in all kinds of stunts," says Gosling. "There was that Open Letter that Rod Smith wrote saying 'Oh, Sun, you should go open source', and of course that was complete puffery. It wouldn't have made any difference to them because they already had all the rights that anybody could ever want."

"And when we did actually change the license, IBM was really upset. They wanted a license would be, they could do whatever they damn well pleased. So we went for a GPL license that says 'We're sharing so you have to reciprocate by sharing too.' That seems fair. They wanted us to give them everything and for them to be so many actors."

Sun previously resisted going open source because the GPL allows the code to be forked—different groups of developers could take it down different, incompatible paths. "Yeah, and a bunch of years ago, I think that was a fairly valid concern," says Gosling, "but it's become pretty clear that the market really values compatibility. If people start doing incompatible forks, market pressure is probably going to be a more effective enforcer of compatibility than a license would be."

A bunch of years ago, of course, Microsoft was developing its own licensed version of Java—in effect, forking it—and led Sun to sue. Sun won, but Microsoft dropping its development seemed to take the steam out of desktop Java.

"It was a big problem. We've been slowly building back. We did the license with them as a defensive thing, and early on, actually, they were quite wonderful partners. Their engineering team was really great, and they were being really good community members." Then there was this memo that came down

from the Microsoft side 'that's not on high that model' and the relationship went sour."

So what about Java's future? "Well, it's kind of a chaotic community; there's no unifying direction because it's a lot of people taking their own applications off in lots of different directions," says Gosling.

"The stuff I'm sweating about most today is what's happening to the diversity of things on the client side, the network. The cellphone world is really growing up, and cell phones are in many places becoming the desktop. "But also things like cable television; set-top boxes and IPTV are getting really interesting, and Java is involved in both of those. The Blu-ray next-generation DVD standard has Java pretty heavily involved."

"So there's a real sea change in the client end of the network, and I'm putting a reasonable amount of sweat into making sure that doesn't come out aggressively stupid. There are so many actors, it's kind of hard to keep everybody aligned."

It's interesting, I respond, that Java has done so well on mobiles when its performance problems limited its adoption on desktops.

"Well, certainly in terms of a platform for running games and things, I don't really have any competition," Gosling replies. "You can load a game and not worry about destroying your ability to make a phone call; that was a big deal. Also, on the phone, we didn't really have the same demands—plus the CPUs used in phones are pretty cool these days."

"In the early days (on the PC) people were saying: 'Gee, I'm trying to do these fast Fourier transforms and it's slow.' It took us a bunch of time to build major rocket science optimisers, but now we're beating C and C++ pretty regularly."

"The future of Java for me really is wherever the developers take it. Probably the biggest place where Java is used in anger is enterprise computing, and that's gotten to be one of its most mature and solid areas. I don't think there's going to be much dramatic change there for the next five years. The most interesting stuff is at the edge points where there are different kinds of devices connected to the network.

"Folks are doing strange and interesting stuff in things like the automotive market and broadband television. It's the sort of thing where, tragically, the big business guys, or most likely game-like things that are correlated to live TV shows with large-scale audi-

James Gosling was recently awarded the Order of Canada. JACK SCHOFIELD speaks to the man who is better known as the father of Java

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ence participation. The hard part is no longer technology. As a technologist, you get to the point where there's really nothing to invent to make things better. It's really more about the social experience of businesses and their customers, and it's impossible to predict what people will be willing to pay for.

"For example, I don't understand why ring tones are so successful financially, or why people will spend more money on water than they do on wine. "I hope there's somebody out there who understands market psychology. It's not me." —Guardian News & Media

Routers take over from operators

By Tobias Schormann

NOT LONG ago, people depended on telephone operators to connect them to their desired destination.

How times have changed. Nowadays, people can literally bring the operator home with them in the form of a router. These boxes not only regulate broadband wireless Internet access among multiple computers, they are also increasingly taking over jobs from the telephone system and toggling between Internet telephony and landline calls.

"Routers are little multi-purpose devices today that are becoming the switchboard for telephone and Internet connections at home," says Paul Gerlach, spokesman for Arcor in the German town of Eschborn, near Frankfurt.

Until recently, broadband users had to use a splitter and cope with a tangle of cords to manage their DSL, modem, network router and telephone connection. Now, one device handles all those functions.

"The latest models usually have an integrated DSL modem for the Internet connection," says Thomas Michel from the Berlin-based online portal Telnet.de.

Making sure the modem can handle upcoming standards like ADSL 2+ and VDSL means Internet users would be prepared for leaps in connection speeds.

Customers who still have an older broadband modem might benefit from buying a simple DSL router. The routers connect computers to a house-hold network.

"It allows multiple users to surf simultaneously," says Ingrid Senft, spokeswoman for 1&1, an Internet provider based in the German town of Montabaur.

Online gamers can use a special model: the DGL+4plus for 1&1, an Internet provider based in the German town of Montabaur.

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Bullies in cyberspace spark growing concern

By Lawrence Bartlett

AN AUSTRALIAN schoolgirl, a Chinese adulterer and several South Korean celebrities have one thing in common: All have been victims of cyberbullying, a modern version of mob cruelty.

The case of the girl was particularly horrific and led an Australian state to ban the popular Internet film-sharing website YouTube from school computers. A group of schoolboys had filmed themselves sexually abusing and degrading the girl and then uploaded the video onto YouTube.

The film showed a group of 12 youths surrounding the 17-year-old girl, who has a mild mental disability, bullying her to perform sex acts, urinating on her and setting her hair alight. The education minister in southern Victoria state, where the attack took place, said the state's 1,600 public schools would block access to YouTube.

"The government has never tolerated bullying in schools and this zero tolerance approach extends to the online world," said Jacinta Allen. The director of the Australian police's High Tech Crime Centre, Kevin Zuccato, said at the time of the attack on the girl late last year that it was a disturbing example of cyberbullying. "Cyberbullying between children online is on the rise," he said. "Social networking sites are also putting children at risk."

In South Korea, a law aimed at cracking down on Internet misuse means cyberbullies will no longer be able to hide behind false identities. South Korea's ministry of information said in March. "When the new law takes effect in July, the 'Internet real-name system' will mean cyberbullies can be traced because major portals and news media websites will be compelled to record the real IDs of users when they post entries.

Portals operators will be obliged to disclose personal information such as names and addresses of cyber attackers when their victims want to sue them for libel or infringement upon privacy."

"South Korea is an Internet powerhouse and is probably the most wired country in the world. But sadly, the dark side is so dark," ministry director Lee Ta-hee said. "Victims have to be able to trace cyber attackers when the attackers use false IDs," he said.

Cyberbullying has become a social issue in South Korea as celebrities often fall victim to abuse and malicious attacks. TV star Jeong Da-bin and pop singer Yuni reportedly suffered cyberbullying before they committed suicide in 2005.

Many Internet users, taking advantage of anonymity, have made a hobby of writing malicious messages on websites, accusing celebrities of sex scandals or having plastic surgery, experts said.

In China, a famous case of cyberbullying developed in April 2006, when a man posted information about another man who allegedly had an affair with his wife. He identified his wife's supposed lover by his Web name, which led to a series of postings that revealed the man's name, phone number and address.

Thousands of Web postings denounced the lover, while Internet users telephoned or showed up at his home to shout abuse at him and his family. Lawyers are now calling on the government to protect people from having their personal information made public on the Internet.

Marilyn Campbell of Australia's Queensland University of Technology, a child psychologist and expert on cyberbullying, says a key element of the new form of an old abuse is that it cannot be escaped. With the use of the Internet, blogs, e-mail and mobile phones with text messaging, video and picture capability, cyberbullying can be carried on "24/7," she said. —AFP



A computer grab from 'Second Life' shows avatars taking part in a virtual political rally at the virtual campaign site of French presidential candidate Nicolas Sarkozy. Right: Another grab shows a protester outside the office of Presidential candidate Jean Marie Le Pen's National Front party.

and sometimes try to hold debates with their more open members," said Stephane Deschanel, who heads the *Second Life* activities of the Socialist Party.

Clashes between political opponents are quite common in *Second Life*, which also witnessed vandalism to the virtual office of US democrat Presidential candidate John Edwards.

As supporters of France's far-right National Front party gathered for a virtual political rally at the virtual campaign site of French presidential candidate Nicolas Sarkozy, Right: Another grab shows a protester outside the office of Presidential candidate Jean Marie Le Pen's National Front party.

like an exhibition space with French tricolor flags and a poster of him and his daughter Marine—often houses supporters in buoyant mood predicting he will do well as they drink copious amounts of virtual alcohol.

Somewhat incongruously, it is situated next to a *Second Life* nightclub called 242. Inside the club, a female avatar with purple dreadlocks gyrates wildly to the strains of electronic music, apparently oblivious to the politics next door.

He surveyed the slight damage, then returned to sip a virtual drink at Sarkozy's site, where avatars



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GULF TIMES FEATURES
Tuesday, April 3, 2007



SUPER MOVIES	STAR MOVIES	ESPN SPORTS	FOX SPORTS	HOLLYWOOD CH.	ZEE TV	DISCOVERY CH.	STAR PLUS
0500 Walkout 2 0700 My Life Without Me 0900 Millions 2 1100 Zodiac 3	0605 Trump Unauthorised The Hard Easy 0740 Cold Creek Manor 1120 Barbershop 2: Back in Business	0630 SportsCenter 2007 0800 ESPN Soccernet Press Pass 0830 NHRA 2 Day 0900 SportsCenter 2007 1000 NHRA Drag Racing	0500 FOX Soccer Report 0700 ESPN Soccernet Highlights 1000 FOX Soccer Report 1100 International Indoor GP - Milano Games New York, NY	0500 Muchmusic VJ Search The Series 0600 The It List 0630 The Punk Show 0700 Mmmprofile 0730 The Newmusic 0800 Video On Trial 0830 Muchmusic Video Flow 0900 Start Daily 0930 Start At The Movies 1000 In Fashion 1030 FashionTelevision 1100 Everything 1200 Muchtvice	0525 Exposure Jhalak 0530 WWS 0555 Exposure Ek Nazar 0600 WWS 0630 Exposure Ek Nazar 0630 Jai Ganes 0655 Exposure Jhalak 0700 Maza 0730 Mazlein Apni Apni 0800 Sarhadein 0830 Kasam Se 0855 Exposure Jhalak 0900 Jab Love Hua 0930 Marmta 0955 Exposure Ek Nazar 1000 Maayka 1030 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1100 Tesn Bahuraniyan 1130 Saath Phere 1200 Ghar Ki Lakshmi 1230 Movie: Humraaz	0515 Massive Engines 0540 How It's Made 0605 Ridas 0700 Wheeler Dealers 0755 Junkyard Wars 0850 How It's Made 0915 Speed Machines 1010 Living Famously 1105 Mythbusters 1200 Ridas 1255 A Car is Reborn	0500 Meri Saheli 0530 Kogza 0600 Krishna Arjun 0630 Kahani Ghar Ghar 0700 Kesar 0730 Saarthi 0800 Saath 0830 Shagun 0900 Shararat 0930 Karam Apna Apna 1000 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1030 Kunkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan 1100 Kesar 1130 Kesar 1200 Saarthi 1230 Kora Kagaz 1300 Shagun

MOVIE RATINGS	
1 All Viewers	2 Caution
3 Parental Discretion	V Violence
S Adult Content	L Strong Language

Listing

1300 One Last Thing 3 1500 Bigger Than The Sky 2 1700 Spooky House 2	1310 Warlock 1500 Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl 1725 Trump Unauthorised 1855 Hope Springs	1300 Argentine Open Polo Championship 1400 NCAA 1630 Major League Baseball	1300 FOX Soccer Report 1400 Firsthand 1500 Football Asia 1530 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Highlights Super Eight Series, B2 v C1 Antigua & Barbuda 1630 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Super Eight Series, D1 v A2 1st Session 1700 Golf Club	1300 Muchmusic Special 1400 The Art Of The Photograph 1430 Muchmusic Video Flow 1500 Start Daily 1530 In Fashion 1600 Raw 1630 So90s 1730 Muchmusic Countdown	1315 Exposure Ek Nazar 1330 Film contd... 1430 Film contd... 1530 Kasam Se 1630 Marmta 1730 Simdoor Tere Naam Ka 1700 Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan 1800 Maayka 1830 Kasam Se	1350 Junkyard Wars 1445 Building the Ultimate 1515 Massive Engines 1635 Mythbusters 1730 Deadliest Catch 1830 American Chopper	1330 Shararat 1430 Parazzi (Mon) 1430 Kunkum Ek Pyara Sa Bandhan 1500 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 1530 Kaun Banega Croopati - SRK 1630 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 1700 Karam Apna Apna 1800 Kasauti Zindagi Kay 1830 Viraasat
1900 Keane 2100 Forty Shades Of Blue 2300 TBA 3 0100 Dorm Daze RX 0300 Keane	2030 Good Morning Bringing Down the House 0215 Warlock 0225 Hollywood Shootouts 0245 Pirates of the Caribbean	1930 Sports Video Gaming 2000 SportsCenter 2007 2100 NCAA 2330 NHRA Drag Racing 0230 NCAA Women's Special 0330 NCAA Women's Tournament National Championship	2015 Luncheon ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Highlights Super Eight Series, B2 v C1 from Antigua & Barbuda 2100 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Super Eight Series, D1 v A2 2nd Session 0300 USATF U.S. Indoor Championships Boston, MA 0100 Dream Team Season 5 0200 Golf Central International 0230 The Golf Channel TBA	1900 Listed 2000 The Spin 2030 Muchmusic Video Flow 2100 Start Daily 2130 Best! Movies! Ever! 2200 D 2230 Absc Of Rock 2300 The Story Of... 0000 The Wedge 0100 Mmmprofile 0130 The Newmusic 0200 Video On Trial 0230 Muchmusic Video Flow 0300 Start Daily	1900 Saath Phere 1930 Ghar Ki Lakshmi 2000 Saath Phere 2030 Maayka 2030 Exposure Jhalak 2100 Kasam Se 2125 Exposure Ek Nazar 2230 A Car is Reborn 2155 Exposure Jhalak 2200 Global Telemall 2300 Sales Shot Flip Play 0000 Kasam Se 0030 Marmta 0100 Saath Phere 0130 Jab Love Hua 0200 Urja 0230 Narseva Narayan Seva	1930 Rides 2030 How It's Made 2100 Dirty Jobs 2200 Kings of Construction 2300 Mega Machines 0300 A Car is Reborn 0445 Building the Ultimate	1930 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 2000 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2030 Kayamath 2100 Kaun Banega Croopati - SRK 2200 Karam Apna Apna 2300 Karam Apna Apna 2330 Kora Kagaz 0000 Kesar 0030 Shararat 0130 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 0200 Shagun 0230 Bhabhi 0300 Kayamath

Television

GEO TV	AMERICA PLUS	FUN CHANNEL	BBC WORLD	ORBIT NEWS	CNN INTERNATIONAL	DISNEY CHANNEL	CHANNEL IV INT.
0505 Baachey Mun Kay Sachay 0530 Fun Club 0605 Advance Booking 0630 Songs 0705 Aakia Na Gana 0730 Khuwab 0805 Paalana 0830 Advance Booking 0905 Bachelor Zawarcho 0930 Noor Jehan 1000 Kksum 1030 Sheeshay Ka Mehal 1100 Ye Meri Life Hai 1130 Aashna 1200 Safaid posh 1230 Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin	0500 Third Watch 0600 Good Morning America 0800 Smallville 0900 All My Children 1000 Everwood 1100 Crossing Jordan 1200 All My Children	0500 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0530 High Flyers 0600 Sleeper Club 0630 The Little 0700 The Little 0725 Little Mouse On The Prairie 0750 Journey To The Heart Of The World 0815 Gulliver's Travels 0830 Inspector Gadget 0900 Lady Lovely Leicks 0925 Princess Tenko 0945 Little Mermad 1010 Princess Sissi 1055 The Little 1120 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1145 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1205 Gulliver's Travels 1230 Inspector Gadget 1255 Jin Jin And The Panda Patrol	0500 BBC News, Weather 0530 World Business Report 0545 Sport Today 0600 BBC News, Weather 0630 Asia Today 0645 Asia Business Report 0700 BBC News, Weather 0730 World Business Report 0800 BBC News, Weather 0830 World Business Report 0900 BBC News, Weather 0930 Sport Today 1000 BBC News, Weather 1030 Click 1100 BBC News, Weather 1130 World Talk 1200 BBC News, Weather 1230 Fast Track	0500 The Situation w/Tucker Carlson 0600 NBC Nightly News 0635 ABC Nightline 0705 NBC Nightly News 0800 MSNBC Scarborough 0900 MSNBC Hardball 1000 ABC Nightline 1030 NBC Nightly News 1100 ABC World News Now 1130 NBC Early Today 1200 MSNBC First Look 1230 ABC World News This Morning	0500 Anderson Cooper 0600 World News 0630 World Sport 0700 CNN Today 1000 Business International 1100 World News 1200 Larry King	0520 Recess 0535 Lilo and Stich 0600 House of Mouse 0625 Quack Pack 0645 Goo Troop 0710 Classic Cartoons 0715 Tarzan 0740 Lilo and Stich 0800 Emporer's New School 0825 Fairly Odd Parents 0845 American Dragon 0810 Fillmore 0930 Kim Possible 0955 Hannah Montana 1015 Emporer's New School 1030 Kronk's New Groove 1145 Emporer's New School 1155 Classic Cartoons 1210 Lilo and Stich 1225 Quack Pack	0500 Double Shot Pop 0600 Parazzi (Mon) 0630 The Record Shop 0700 America's Next Top Model S7 #7 0800 Double Shot 0900 Parental Control #14 0915 Double Shot 1000 Remote Control 1100 Video(Scope) 1200 America's Next Top Model S7 #7 1230 The Record Shop
1300 Pyaree Shammo 1405 Mehndi Walay Haath 1430 Khuda Kee Basti 1505 Tere Pehlo Mein 1605 Advance Booking 1630 Fun Club 1705 Good Food 1730 Razzmatazz 1805 Mehndi Walay Haath 1830 Khuda Kee Basti	1300 One Tree Hill 1400 Good Morning America 1600 Smallville 1700 Crossing Jordan 1800 Everwood	1320 Oliver Twist 1345 Eek Stravaganza 1410 Heartchill 1430 Bad Dog 1455 The Little 1520 Little Mouse On The Prairie 1545 Journey To The Heart Of The World 1600 Gulliver's Travels 1615 Inspector Gadget 1700 Camp Candy 1725 The Adventures Of Pinocchio 1750 Peter Pan And The Pirates 1815 Dennis	1300 BBC News, Weather 1330 My Cricket World Cup 1345 Sport Today 1400 World News Today 1430 BBC News, Weather 1530 World Business Report 1545 Sport Today 1600 BBC News, Weather 1630 Asia Today 1645 Asia Business Report 1700 BBC News, Weather 1730 Heartalk 1800 BBC News, Weather 1830 Take Off 416	1300 ABC World News This Morning 1330 NBC Early Today 1400 NBC The Today Show 1430 Wheel Of Fortune 1800 MSNBC Hardball	1300 Business International 1400 World News Asia 1500 World News Asia 1600 World News Asia 1700 Your World Asia	1320 Tarzan 1340 Lilo and Stich 1350 Lloyd in Space 1415 Kim Possible 1435 Bravly and Mr. Whiskers 1500 The Suite Life of Zack and Cody 1515 Lilo and Stich 1535 Emporer's New School 1600 Fairly Odd Parents 1625 American Dragon 1650 Kim Possible 1710 Hannah Montana 1735 The Suite Life of Zack and Cody 1800 Emporer's New School 1825 Fillmore 1845 Recess	1300 [V] Special Take That Live In Taipei 1400 Fashion File 1430 Double Shot 1455 One-tastic 1530 This Cover 1600 Cactus Garden #26 1615 Lilo and Stich 1635 Emporer's New School 1700 The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency #4 1730 The Suite Life of Zack and Cody 1800 The Rock Show 1830 Flava
1905 Tere Pehlo Mein 1930 Kaajal 2005 Aashna 2030 Noor Jehan 2105 Khuwab 2130 Advance Booking 2205 Good Food 2230 Razzmatazz 2305 Mehndi Walay Haath 2330 Khuda Kee Basti 0005 Tere Pehlo Mein 0030 Kaajal 0105 Aashna 0130 Noor Jehan 0205 Pyaree Shammo 0305 Safaid Posh 0330 Sheeshay Ka Mehal	1900 CSI 2100 One Tree Hill 2200 Third Watch 2300 Sleeper Cell 0100 One Tree Hill 0200 Third Watch 0400 CSI	2000 Skate 2030 The Tribe 2100 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 2130 High Flyers 2200 Sleeper Club 2230 Explorations 2300 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0000 Skate 0030 The Tribe 0100 The Adventures Of The Bush Patrol 0130 High Flyers 0200 Sleeper Club 0230 Explorations 0300 The Adventures of the Bush Patrol 0430 The Tribe	1900 BBC News, Weather 1930 Asia Today 1945 My Cricket World Cup 2000 BBC News, Weather 2030 World Business Report 2045 Sport Today 2100 BBC News, Weather 2130 Heartalk 2200 BBC News, Weather 2230 Talking Movies 2300 World News Today 0000 BBC News 0015 Sport Today 0030 World Business Report 0100 BBC News 0130 Asia Today 0145 Asia Business Report 0200 BBC News, Weather 0230 Asia Today 0300 BBC News, Weather 0330 World Business Report 0400 BBC News, Weather 0430 Asia Today	1900 MSNBC Countdown 2000 MSNBC News 2030 MSNBC The Situation With T. Carlson 0000 MSNBC Hardball 0100 ABC Nightline 0130 ABC World News 0200 NBC Nightly News 0230 ABC World News 0300 MSNBC Countdown 0400 ABC World News 0430 ABC World News	2130 World Business 2200 World News Europe 2230 World Business 2300 World News Europe 0000 Business International 0100 World News 0130 World Sport	1900 Brandy and Mr. Whiskers 1925 Fairly Odd Parents 1950 Fashion File 2000 Double Shot 2030 This Cover 2100 One-tastic 2130 This Cover 2200 Poparazzi (Tue) 2230 The Record Shop 2260 House of Mouse 2285 Quack Pack 2290 Goo Troop 2310 Classic Cartoons 2320 Tarzan 2340 Lilo and Stich 0000 Emporer's New School 0025 Fairly Odd Parents 0050 American Dragon 0110 Fillmore 0135 Kim Possible 0155 Hannah Montana	1900 Breaking Up With Sherry Doherty #7 1930 Double Shot 2000 Fashion File 2030 Double Shot 2100 One-tastic 2130 This Cover 2200 Poparazzi (Tue) 2230 The Record Shop 2260 America's Next Top Model S7 #7 2290 Video(Scope) 0000 Parental Control #14 0030 Double Shot 0200 The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency #4 0300 This Cover 0330 Double Shot 0390 One-tastic 0430 This Cover 0400 Double Shot 90's 0430 Double Shot Superstars

RADIO STATIONS

0600 Holy Qur'an and its Translation 0615 The Breakfast Show (News Summary at 0700) 0845 Arabic/Islamic Programmes 0900 Tempo Latino 1000 In All Directions 1105 News Summary 1125 Midday Show 1300 The News 1315 French Transmission 1600 Featuring Album 1700 Evening Show 1800 The News 1815 Evening Show contd... 2000 News Summary 2005 Soft Tunes 2100 Music in Stereo	1330 News; Qatari press review; Number 1 1345 Charqui Kharbi 1415 French/English programme; World and Arabic music 1530 News Flash 1535 Exceptional Women 1600 Back to English Service	0500 Manjrum Kum Pular Kalam 0530 Life Magazine 0605 Keralaeyam 0700 Sarasakeralam 0800 Hello Rainbow 0900 GMG 1000 Comedy Serial 1030 Alukas 1100 Daily Diary 1130 Sneha Veedu 1330 Aandrabhavanthal 1357 Nam Engottu 1420 Atlas Daily Si 1500 Viva Dharparvam 1600 Kerala Link 1605 Suvarna Nakshtram 1702 Snehithare Itile 1800 Hotline 1900 Sneha Sandeshan 2000 Nenchal Ninne Rangan 2100 Isai Malai 2130 Uraavum Padalum 2215 Ragamrutham	2300 Songs News by the hour	0600 Opening, Viswasa Deepthi, Islamic Speech 0615 Today's Programmes 0620 Asianet Varthakal 0630 Nika Udayavamangal 0730 Sreekanandan Nair Show 0800 Suprabatham 0855 Chanthirathal Innu 0930 Tele Quiz 0930 Daily Serial 1000 News Headlines 1002 Navageshtham 1020 Tharapadham 1100 News Headlines 1102 Campus 1115 Natakaganangal 1130 K M Trading Couples 1200 Asianet Varthakal 1210 Alukas Nammal Tham- mil	1300 News Headlines 1302 Alappat Geetanjali 1400 Asianet Varthakal 1405 Ragamalka 1420 Cine-Quiz 1440 Yuvabheri 1500 Asianet Varthakal 1502 Atlas Ganopaharam 1505 Islamic Quiz 1600 Atlas Vritanatham 1615 Tamil Malalar 1645 Tomorrow's Programmes 1650 Asianet Varthakal/close	0600 World News 0805 The World Today 0900 World News 0905 Global Business 1000 World News 1005 The World Today 1030 The World 1100 World News 1105 World Briefing 1120 World Business Report 1130 World Briefing 1205 World Update 1200 World News 1300 Sports Roundup 1200 World News 1405 World Briefing 1505 Sports Roundup 1200 World News 1300 World Briefing 1330 Outlook 1400 World News 1405 World Briefing 1420 World Business Report 1430 The World 1500 World News 1505 Newshour 1600 World News 1605 Global Business 1630 Digital Planet	0600 World News 0805 The World Today 0900 World News 0905 Global Business 1000 World News 1005 The World Today 1030 The World 1100 World News 1105 World Briefing 1120 World Business Report 1130 World Briefing 1205 World Update 1200 World News 1300 Sports Roundup 1200 World News 1405 World Briefing 1505 Sports Roundup 1200 World News 1300 World Briefing 1330 Outlook 1400 World News 1405 World Briefing 1420 World Business Report 1430 The World 1500 World News 1505 Newshour 1600 World News 1605 Global Business 1630 Digital Planet	1700 World News 1705 Outlook 1800 World News 1805 World Briefing 1840 Business Daily 1900 World News 1905 Europe Today 2000 World News 2005 World Have Your Say 2100 World News 2105 World Briefing 2120 World Business Report 2130 World News 2200 World News 2205 Global Business 2230 The World 2300 World News 2305 Newshour 0000 World News 0005 World Briefing 0020 World Business Report 0030 World Briefing 0040 Analysis 0050 Sports Roundup 0100 World News 0105 World Briefing 0120 World Business Report 0130 World Briefing
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	BBC PRIME	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	STAR WORLD	GRANADA UK	MOVIE CHANNEL	MGM	TV LAND	SUN TV					
5am to 1pm	0710 Big Cook Little Cook 0730 Tikkabilla 0800 Razzledazzle 0815 Tweenies 0835 Balamory 0855 Teletubbies 0920 Roly Mo Show 0935 Andy Pandey 0940 Big Cook Little Cook 1000 Room Rivals 1030 Worrall Thompson 1100 The Life Laundry 1130 Garden Invaders 1200 To Buy Or Not To Buy 1230 Massive Nature	0600 The Real Fight Club 0700 A Life Among The Weasels 0800 Hidden Worlds 0900 From The Heart 0930 Indonesia Beyond The Reefs 1000 Crash Scene Investigation 1100 Naked Science S2 1200 National Geographic's Taboo	0600 King Of Queens 0630 The Simpsons 0700 Seinfeld 0730 Hollywood Squares 0800 Friends 0830 Cheers 0900 Oprah Winfrey Show 1000 Miami Vice 1100 Still Standing 1130 Frasier 1200 Life With Bonnie 1230 Rodney	0630 Only When I Laugh (Series 2) 0700 The Persuaders 0800 All About George 0900 Through The Keyhole 0930 Night And Day 1000 Soldier Soldier (Series 2) 1100 Crossroads 1130 Emmerdale 1200 Coronation Street 1230 A Woman Of Independent Means	0530 The Spongebob Squarepants Movie 0730 Help, I'm A Fish 0900 National Treasure 1115 Are We There Yet?	0545 Young Billy Young 0715 Caveman 0845 One Special Victory 1020 Not As A Stranger 1235 The Blue Lightning	0500 Top Gear 0600 Knight Rider 0700 Stargate SG-1 0800 Xena Warrior Princess 0900 Stargate Atlantis 1000 Airwolf 1100 Beauty And The Beast 1200 Prison Break	0630 Super 10 0700 Raja Rajeswari 0730 Alarum Mottum 0800 Ninavugal 0830 Surya 0900 Bandhan 0930 Nimmadhi 1000 Chellamadi Nee Enakku 1030 Passam 1100 Afternoon Bulletin 1130 Movie					
	1pm to 7pm	1300 Animal Hospital Keeping Up Appearances 1400 2 Point 4 Children 1430 Last Of The Summer Wine 1500 Two Thousand Acres Of Sky 1600 He Knew He Was Right 1700 Passport To The Sun 1730 Room Rivals 1800 Cash In The Attic 1830 Bargain Hunt	1300 Riddles Of The Bible 1400 Tsunami One Place, Many Stories 1500 Amazon Claws 1600 Is It Real? S3 1700 Naked Science S2 1800 Taboo	1300 Oprah Winfrey Show 1400 Fashion House 1500 General Hospital 1600 Kevin Hill 1700 Baywatch 1800 The Simpsons 1830 Cheers	1330 A Woman Of Independent Means 1430 Only When I Laugh (Series 2) 1500 The Persuaders 1600 At Home With The Braithwaites 1700 Through The Keyhole 1730 Night And Day 1800 Soldier Soldier	1300 Just Like Heaven 1500 New France 1730 Are We There Yet?	1405 Reborn 1535 The Bridge In The Jungle 1700 Little Dorrit	1300 Ugly Betty 1400 Desperate Housewives 1500 Xena Warrior Princess 1600 Stargate Atlantis 1700 Knight Rider 1800 Stargate SG-1	1400 Santhipoma 1430 Kuttys Choice 1500 My Dear Bootham 1530 Mhurthan 1600 Evening News Headlines 1603 Kasturi 1630 Anandham 1700 Malargal 1730 Evening News 1800 Anjali 1830 Kolangal				
		7pm to 9pm	1900 2 Point 4 Children 1930 Last Of The Summer Wine 2000 A Place In France 2100 He Knew He Was Right 2200 The Robinsoms 2230 The Smoking Room 2300 The Kumars At Number 42 2330 I'm Alan Partridge 0000 He Knew He Was Right	1900 Outbreak Investigation 2000 Is It Real? S3 2100 Naked Science S2 2200 Taboo 2300 Outbreak Investigation 0000 Riddles Of The Bible 0100 Tsunami One Place, Many Stories 0200 Amazon Claws	1900 Friends 1930 Seinfeld 2000 Falcon Beach 2100 Fashion House 2200 Ncis 2300 Seinfeld 2330 Friends 0000 Falcon Beach 0100 Fashion House 0200 Amazon Claws	1900 Crossroads 1930 Emmerdale 2000 Coronation Street 2030 Bone (Series 1) 2130 Faith In The Future (Series 1) 2200 A Fine Romance (Series 3) 2230 Watching 2300 The Persuaders 0000 At Home With The Braithwaites (Series 1) 0100 Through The Keyhole	1915 Thumbsucker 2100 Scream 3 2300 Just Like Heaven	2000 Rebecca's Daughters 2135 Run Silent, Run Deep 2305 Silent Victim 0100 Tennessee Nights 0245 Retreads 0425 Night Angel	1900 Criminal Minds 2000 Windfall 2100 Friday Night Lights 2200 Missing 2300 Monster Garage 0000 Stargate Atlantis 0100 Prison Break 0200 Criminal Minds 0300 Windfall	1900 Arasi 1930 Lakshmi 2000 Surya 2030 Putham Pudhuru 2100 News In Tamil 2200 Thirai Masala 0300 News In Tamil 0330 Putham Pudhuru 0400 Mangayar Choche			
			9pm to 11pm	0700 Today's Business 0800 Street Exchange 1100 Worldwide Exchange	0600 Sky News On The Hour 0630 CBS News 0730 Sky World News 0730 Review & Business 0800 Sky World News 0830 Review & Business 0900 Sunrise 1200 Sky News Today	0630 Kannadi 0700 Cinema Diary 0730 Filmi Thamasas 0800 Puthiyageethangal 0830 WWS 0900 Samayam 0930 Swarnamayooram 1000 Stree Oru 1030 Santhanam 1100 Asianet Varthakal	0605 Suprabhatham 0630 Kannadi 0700 Cinema Diary 0730 Filmi Thamasas 0800 Puthiyageethangal 0830 WWS 0900 Samayam 0930 Swarnamayooram 1000 Stree Oru 1030 Santhanam 1100 Asianet Varthakal	0540 WWS Sky Shop 0555 V Trailers 0600 Anani No 1 1000 Greatest Comedy 1025 V Trailers 1030 Main Meri Patni Aur Woh	0730 Bottle Top Bill 0745 Lunar Jim 0800 Barney 0830 Blues Clues 0900 Connie The Cow 0915 Pingu 0930 Dora The Explorer 1000 Thomas & Friends 1015 Postman Pat 1030 Bottle Top Bill 1045 Lunar Jim 1100 A House That's Just Like Yours 1130 Hi 5 1200 Tracey Mcbean 1230 Danny Phantom	0700 Song Sequence 0730 Movie: Nainavellam Nithya 1000 Song Sequence 1030 Movie: Ane Karuyire	0700 Nungaldu Choice 0730 Ammayiathan Urangatha Veedu 0800 Film Express 0830 Music Moments 0900 Anandam 0930 Chechi 1000 Kolangal 1030 News 1045 Movie: Kunkuma Cheppu		
				11pm to 1am	1300 Power Lunch 1400 US CNBC Squawk Box 1600 Squawk On The Street 1700 US Morning Call 1800 European Closing Bell	1500 Lunchtime Live 1700 Sky News Today	1500 Holy Qur'an 1530 Garfield 1600 Marspilami 1630 Play With Me 1700 In A Heart 1845 Genesis	1455 Cookery show 1500 Valkannadi 1600 Sayahannam 1625 Swantham 1655 Suryaputhri 1700 Watching 1730 News Time 1800 Nombarrappoovu 1830 Amma Manasu	1400 101 All Time Greatest Comedy 1430 Pyaar Ke Side Effects 1730 101 All Time Greatest Comedy 1800 Krishna	1300 Yakkity Yak 1330 Hey Arnold 1400 Spongebob Squarepants 1430 All Grown Up 1500 Tracey Mcbean 1530 Danny Phantom 1600 Blues Clues 1630 Dora The Explorer 1700 Barney 1730 Hi 5 1800 Fraggile Rock 1830 Jungle Run	1300 Song Sequence 1330 Movie: Komberi Mookkan 1600 Karuppu Vellai 1630 Thirai Minnalgal 1700 Andrum Indrum 1730 Movie: Inyellam Sugame	1330 Comedy Time 1400 Venal Mazha 1430 Hai Kids 1500 Kutties Choice 1530 News 1600 Manasaryadhhe 1630 Pujanenmam 1700 Kanakkinavu 1730 Prayanam 1800 Kalyanee 1830 Minnu Kettu	
					1am to 5am	2000 US Power Lunch 2100 Europe Tonight 2130 Street Signs 2200 US Closing Bell 0000 The Tonight Show 0045 With Jay Leno 0130 Conan Obrien 0130 NBC Nightly News 0200 Pokerheaven.Com Online Series Of Poker	2000 Live At Five 2130 Sportsline 2200 The Sky Report 2300 World News Tonight 0000 Nine O'clock News 0030 Sky News 0130 Sky News At Ten 0130 Sportsline 0200 Sky News Tonight	1945 Maybe 2000 This Time 2015 World Game 2130 Law and Order 2200 English News 2215 Feature Film 0000 Transmission of Al-Jazeera Channel	1900 Samadooram 1930 Pavitra Jyotilanu 2000 Swami Ayyappa 2030 Sanmanussulla-varukku 2058 Samadhanam 2100 Update 2100 Asianet Vanthakal 2130 MunshirRepeat 2135 Gulf Roundup 2205 5 Star Thattukada 2235 Cinema 2300 Gulf News 2330 Minnun Tharam	2130 101 All Time Greatest Comedy 2200 Chote Sarkar 0205 Movie	1900 Darcy's Wild Life 1930 Unfabulous 2000 My Parents Are Aliens 2030 Tracey Mcbean 2100 Danny Phantom 2130 Yakkity Yak 2200 Hey Arnold 2230 Squarepants 2300 All Grown Up 2330 Blues Clues 0000 Dora The Explorer 0030 Thomas & Friends 0045 Postman Pat	2000 Srippu Vedigal 2030 Movie: Manadlie Oru Paattu 2300 Song Sequence 0200 News 0230 Song Sequence 0430 Movie	1900 Amme Devi 1930 Kayamkulam Kochunni 2000 Comedy Time 2030 News 2100 Spl Programme 2130 Campus Choice 2200 Film Express 2230 Tharika 2300 Cookey 2330 Surya Music

PRAYER TIME
Fajr 4:07am, Shoroq (sunrise) 5:24am, Zuhr (noon) 11:37am, Asr (afternoon) 3:06pm, Maghreb (sunset) 5:52pm, Isha (night) 7:22pm.

DONA ZOO
Open from 8am to 12 noon and 2:30pm to 7pm daily. Tuesdays are reserved for women. Friday for general public in the afternoon only.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS
Tel: 4408555

HOSPITALS
Visiting Hours:
Hamad General Hospital, Women's Hospital and Rumailah Hospital 6am to 7:30am, 4pm to 8pm.

HELP LINE
Is drinking a problem for you or someone you love?
Call Alcoholics Anonymous: 5605901

LATEST DVD, VIDEO RELEASES
ENGLISH: Casino Royale (Daniel Craig); The Devil Wears Prada (Meryl Streep); End Game (Cuba Gooding Jr); Feast

INFORMATION
(Duane Whitaker, Hannah Schick); Asterix and the Vikings (cartoon); Stick It (Jeff Bridges); Unknown (Jim Caviezel, Greg Kinnear); Saw (Shawnee Smith, Bahar Soomekh); Pokeman: Destiny Deoxy's Open Season (Animation); Nothing (David Hewlett, Andrew Miller); Wicker Man (Nicholas Cage); King Maker (Gary Stretch, John Rhys-Davies); Wicker Man (Nicholas Cage); Find Me Guilty (Vin Diesel); Akeelah & The Bee (Keke Palmer, Laurence Fishburne); Black Hole (Judd Nelson, Kristy Swanson); Slither (Nathan Filion, Michael Rooker); HINDI: Salaam-E-Ishq (Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra); Mr Hot Mr Kool (Zulfy Syed, Yash Pandit); Kabul Express (John Abraham, Arshad Warsi); Mr Hot Mr Kool (Zulfy Syed, Yash Pandit); Guru (Abhishek Bachchan); Bhagam Bhag (Govinda); Dhoom 2 (Hrithik Roshan); Jaane (Rajesh Khanna, Zeenat Aman); Kabhie Alvida Na Kehna (Shahrukh Khan); Kuldyan Ka Zamana (Rekha); I See You (Anjun Rampal); Aryan (Sohail Khan, Sneha Ullal); Baadul (Rani Mukherji); Dil Dye Hai (Emraan Hashmi, Geeta Basra); Vivah (Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao).

ARABIC: Emarat Yaacoubian; Alernni Hob; Oored Kholan; Dars Khasouy.
FRANCE: Oored Yaacoubi; Q-Mart Audio Video at The Mall.

USEFUL NUMBERS
Police, Fire, Ambulance 999
HMC 4392222
Women's (Rumailah) 4393333
HMC (Emergency) 4393507
Veterinary 653063
Water & Electricity 991
Flight Inquiries 4622999
Doha Seaport 4457457
Museum 4442191
Cinema 4671811
Murtaz Post (24-hr Service) 4415566
 4432211
(Car) 4483555
Ship Phone Service 4864444
Ministry of Interior main switchboard 4330000
Public Department for passports, nationality and residence 4882882
Capital Security Department 4444420
Criminal Information Department 4477477
Boundaries and Coasts Security 4414488
Civil Defence Department 4413666
Public Relations Department 4448720
Rescue Service 4682888

YOUR STARS

ARIES (Mar 21-April 20): Turn your present relationship around or start a new one. Romance will develop through work. You will be able to make favourable changes in your living quarters. +++

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with. Secret activity is evident. Don't make large purchases or investments. +++

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Be fair. Spend some time with your loved ones. You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. +++

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Obstacles may stand in your way completely. Take precautions while concerned. You can expect your mate to get fed up and make the choices for you or back off completely. Take precautions while travelling; you don't have to get anywhere that fast. +++

LEO (July 23-August 22): You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Organisation will be the key to avoiding discord and family feuds. +++

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You will find that joint ventures could easily turn out to be dead end projects. Your charm will be captivating. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. +++

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LEO (July 23-August 22): You need to take a good look at all sides of an issue before making a decision. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Organisation will be the key to avoiding discord and family feuds. +++

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You will find that joint ventures could easily turn out to be dead end projects. Your charm will be captivating. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. +++

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Will Ferrell stars as Chazz Michael Michaels in *Blades of Glory*.

Ferrell skates into comedy

THEY call it the Paul Newman Syndrome: an actor takes a role, as, say, a race car driver, and then develops a lifelong love for the sport. Will Ferrell, who plays a competitive ice skater in his new comedy *Blades of Glory*, does not have that syndrome.

"I have not had my feet in a pair of those diabolical torture devices since the day we wrapped the movie, and I feel I can state with some certainty I never will again," he says. "Unless, of course, this is some kind of monster hit and the public demands the sequel. But maybe if that happens, I can be the coach. In fact, I'll just throw that out there right now."

Ferrell hadn't been on ice skates in years — "like, why would I?" — when he was offered the role of the uber-macho egomaniacal, hard-rock, hardcore and soft-bellied

Chazz Michael Michaels in *Blades* which is, roughly, to skating what *Talladega Nights* was to stock-car racing. "except with sparklier uniforms," says the actor.

Ferrell plays the swaggering, belching, lifelong rival to beloved one-time child prodigy Jimmy MacElroy, played by Jon Heder (*Napoleon Dynamite*), who, with Chazz, is banned for life from singles competition when their antipathy boils over into WWF-style televised brawling after they tie for the gold at the World Championships.

Three-and-a-half years later, Chazz is a drunken has-been doing third-rate ice shows, and Jimmy is selling skates at a sporting goods store when Coach — played by TV's "Coach" Craig T. Nelson — discovers a loophole that would allow them to compete

'As cliched as this might sound, it's really more about the characters than the genre for me at this point,' Will Ferrell tells TERRY LAWSON

as partners. It turns out the official bylaws failed to designate that partners meant male-female.

"There's obviously something inherently funny in the idea," says Ferrell. "The question is whether it's funny enough to fill up a feature film. About halfway through the script, I realised that wasn't a problem."

The script came highly recommended from Ferrell's long-time friend and fellow aficionado of absurd comedy, Ben Stiller, one of the producers of the movie, which Stiller had developed for himself.

"Once again, taking Ben's

table scraps," says Ferrell. Stiller ultimately decided against doing the movie because he felt the character was too similar to the male model he played in 2001's *Zoolander*. Ferrell also appeared in *Zoolander*, as fashion mogul Mugatu.

"Yeah, but I have no problem repeating myself," jokes Ferrell. "My standards aren't as rigorous as Ben's."

Ferrell has branched out farther than Stiller — playing the uptight Internal Revenue Service auditor who realises his humdrum life is being appropriated by a novelist in last

year's *Stranger than Fiction*, providing the voice of the Man in the Yellow Hat in the adaptation of the children's book *Curious George* and playing a depressed guitar-strumming go-fer for a reclusive novelist in *Winter Passing*.

"As cliched as this might sound, it's really more about the characters than the genre for me at this point," says Ferrell. "I'm like every other actor out there, looking for good characters to play."

Will Speck, who co-directed *Blades* with Josh Gordon, points out that "Will has been creating characters for years," starting with *Saturday Night Live* and continuing in film.

"He is an amazing performer who is so good at what he does that you forget that, as the saying goes, comedy is hard."

Made harder yet with competition skates.

Ferrell says that in his relentless quest to "appear in a parody of every sport played anywhere on the globe," he is filming *Semi-Pro*, a comedy about the former American Basketball Association, once a stepping stone for NBA hopefuls.

Ferrell plays Jackie Moon, the owner-coach-player of Michigan's Flint Tropics. The comedy costars Woody Harrelson, Andre Benjamin, recent Oscar nominee and one-time *Bad News Bear* Jackie Earle Haley and Andy Richter.

And unlike most films set in Michigan, the cast and crew will be in Flint "soon, very soon," according to Ferrell, for about five days of location shooting.

"It's all about authenticity," he says. "To be a Flint Tropic, you got to live like a Flint Tropic." — *Detroit Free Press/MCT*





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GULF TIMES FEATURES
Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Time Out

Entertainment

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Daughtry happy with *Idol* result

Chris Daughtry's career has been far more successful than that of American Idol contestants, writes GEOFFREY ROWLANDS

CHRIS Daughtry didn't win the fifth season of *American Idol*. But his post-*Idol* career has been far more successful than the winner, Taylor Hicks, or runner-up, Katharine McPhee. Indeed, 27-year-old Chris was so much more charismatic than his rivals that the unexpected voting out of *Idol*'s token rocker launched any number of conspiracy theories. Yet Chris insists he was happy with the result. "I don't think things could have worked out better," he smiled.

"Being eliminated was a shock and disappointment at the time. But finishing fourth meant I wasn't as tied to the show as I would have been if I'd won. I still had all the publicity and exposure from appearing on *American Idol* but I was free to head off in my own musical direction."

That direction did not include becoming the new lead singer with American rockers Fuel.

"They saw me performing the Fuel song *Hemorrhage* (In My Hands) on *Idol* and offered me the chance to become their singer. I had auditioned for the *INXS* Rock

Star show hoping to become the new INXS lead singer. But my ambitions had changed since that time. As much as I love Fuel's music and felt enormously flattered to be asked, I knew joining them wasn't the right move for me."

He decided to stand or fall with his own work. Chris wrote or co-wrote all but one song on his self-titled debut album. But he has never seen himself as a solo artist and always intended to form his own band.

"Everything had to be done quickly to take advantage of the publicity from *American Idol*. That meant using some brilliant session musicians to play on my album."

Daughtry's live performances gave fans the opportunity to hear tracks from the forthcoming album. So great was the anticipation that *Daughtry* debuted at No 2 last November on *Billboard*'s Hot 200. It subsequently rose to the top spot and has now been certified double platinum.

Lead single, *It's Not Over*, peaked at No 4 and is still in the US Top 10. It has now been joined on *Billboard*'s Hot 100 by the second single, *Home*.



Chris Daughtry: still a long way to go

"There's nothing like the camaraderie of a band. I love playing with the guys and feel so excited about what we can achieve in the future."

"But *Home* kind of contrasts with what I've just said in that it's a very personal song which I wrote before appearing on *American Idol*. The lyrics seem to capture how far I've come in such a short time. I hope there will still be a long way to go."

Walsh plays Beatles to nursery children

STARSAILOR singer and musician James Walsh recently gained a new set of very young fans. Responding to *Bring Your Dad to Nursery Week*, James sang and played guitar for an entranced audience at his four-year-old daughter's nursery school.

"I felt a little daunted by the prospect of performing to a class of unruly children," he admitted. "But I was asked to play a couple of songs so couldn't very well refuse. It didn't seem like such a good idea to do any Starsailor stuff so I played *Yellow Submarine* and *Octopus's Garden*."

The kids didn't know these songs so I've introduced a new generation to The Beatles." Meanwhile, Starsailor are in the process of creating their fourth album, the follow-up to 2005's *On The Outside*. Songs are still in the demo stage so no release date has been determined.

Anyone unfamiliar with their work can hear four tracks from the band at www.myspace.com/starsailor. But this pales in comparison to all the music available at www.starsailor.net. Numerous tracks are on offer and videos for 10 songs can also be seen on this website.



James Walsh: Playing for kids

Old indie rock stuff in new bottle

BRITISH indie rockers The Wedding Present have released a six-CD set of their performances originally broadcast on the late John Peel's BBC Radio One show.

The band played 12 sessions for John Peel. Their association began in February, 1986, while the final session, in September, 2004, was just a month before John's untimely death.

The six CDs are divided equally between recorded studio sessions and live performances. Each recording has been digitally remastered under the supervision of Wedding Present main man David Gedge.

Presented in a special slip case, *The Wedding Present - The Complete Peel Sessions*, is accompanied by a 40-page information booklet written by Ken Garner. Ken is renown for his book, *In Session Tonight*, a chronicle of live pop and rock on BBC radio.

Four of the band's songs are in the media player at www.myspace.com/theweddingpresent. *Blue Eyes and Crawls* feature on *The Peel Sessions* while *Interstate Sand* and *No Further North Than You* are tracks from the 2005 album, *Take Fountain*.



David Gedge... remastering



Ciaran McFeeley... seeking participation

Simple Kid invites fans to feature in video

HOW would you like to star in a music video? British singer-songwriter Simple Kid, real name Ciaran McFeeley, is offering people the chance to do so.

His next single, *The TwentySomething*, will be released in June.

But rather than have Simp performing the song, the promotional video will feature a number of fans doing their own karaoke versions of *The TwentySomething*.

Anyone who wishes to participate should visit www.myspace.com/simplekidmusic. The backing track for *The TwentySomething* is available for free download from the media player and a copy of the song lyrics can be found as Simple Kid's latest blog entry.

Once you are familiar with song, have yourself videoed giving a performance. When you are happy with the result, upload your finished video to www.youtube.com/simplekidstuff.

If you are a MySpace member, upload it to the video section of your own profile and then post it in the comments area at Simple Kid's MySpace website. Unlike some other competitions, there are no restrictions upon who can enter. Your location or age are immaterial. Simp just wants to find what he considers to be the best karaoke versions of *The TwentySomething* which will then be edited together to form the promotional video.

Closing date for entries is April 20.

Yoshimi to become stage musical

GRAMMY award-winning psychedelic rockers The Flaming Lips are to have their 2002 album, *Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots*, transformed into a stage musical.

It may not seem like the most obvious source material. But Tony award-winning director-producer Des McAnuff is the man behind the project. He has brought in the acclaimed writer and *West Wing* creator Aaron Sorkin who agreed to adapt *Yoshimi* for the stage after listening to the album.

A total of 29 songs, including four tracks from *Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots*, can be heard in the audio section at www.flaminglips.com. The website video section houses 18 promotional music videos plus a host of others ranging from live performances to "making of" videos.

Reports compiled by Geoffrey Rowlands

Latin music chain bans J.Lo

Kerry Burke and Leo Standora

AFTER Jennifer Lopez went back to the Bronx to sign autographs, America's top Latin music chain accused her of forgetting her roots.

Rimo Latino last Thursday banned all J.Lo CDs from its 50 stores, charging the sultry singer is dissing Hispanic shops.

Rimo President David Massry alleged that J.Lo "has refused personally to promote her new CD in any of our stores" and went appear at other outlets devoted only to Latin music. "We've supported her from the beginning. Now were told by her record company she will only visit Anglo retail outlets," Massry said.

Last Wednesday, J.Lo signed hundreds of autographs at the F.Y.E. record store in her home borough for fans who bought her new disc, *Como Ama una Mujer* (How a Woman Loves), Lopez's first album sung only in Spanish.

"This is a Spanish-language CD, and if she wants to discriminate against the Latin community, then we will not sell her product," Massry said.

"This is not the first time this has happened. Celebrities have this notion that when they reach a certain level of crossover appeal, they forget quickly where they started," he said. "We will no longer tolerate these situations."

But many fans of the Bronx-born star rose to her defence.

Yamilka Rivas, 15, an out-



Jennifer Lopez: Under fire

McDonald's cashier from Washington Heights, declared: "This is really messed up. She's Hispanic and she's showing it. She's for real."

"How can an Hispanic company shun an Hispanic person, an Hispanic star," he asked. Stephanie Padilla, 16, from the Bronx, branded the ban "censorship" and said it was "just wrong". "J.Lo is a Boricua (Puerto Rican) from the block. She's just one on to bigger and better things. You can't penalise her for that."

One of the few dissenters was 8th-grade teacher Shakira Llera, 27, who said, "I can understand the ban and why they're upset. Just look around the city. Not too many people identify with her and the life she leads." - MCT

GARFIELD



POOCH CAFE



BOUND & GAGGED



ADAM



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.



Yesterday's solution

5	3	1	6	2	4	9	8	7
4	9	6	1	3	8	5	7	2
6	7	2	5	4	1	3	9	8
8	5	9	4	7	3	1	6	2
1	4	8	9	7	5	2	3	6
2	6	3	7	8	9	4	1	5
7	8	4	1	9	6	3	5	2
3	2	7	8	6	5	4	1	9
9	1	5	2	3	7	8	4	6

This puzzle is taken from *The Sudoku Book: An Introduction to Sudoku with 101 puzzles*, by Sam Griffiths-Jones (RRP: £5.99, Harriman House). Visit www.daily-sudoku.com for a daily graded puzzle, online Sudoku resources and links.

	8							
	8	3	7	5	2	1		
3	6	9						
7	2			6		9		
	1		7	8				
6	5	4	8	1				
				9				

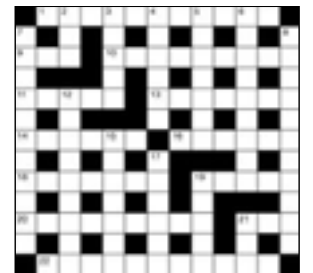
DOUBLE CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Clothing perhaps for a broken marriage situation? (7,4)
 - A number of opponents (3)
 - Therefore don't touch, accepting the situation (2,3,2,2)
 - Dunderhead has record to return to warehouse (5)
 - Cut short, having produced a harvest (7)
 - Give a beating to the head getting shoddy goods round (6)
 - Not outside having some chaplain do ordinary work (6)
 - Further ones obtained from army one (3,4)
 - Send timer back (5)
 - Hint anger could mean a close shave (4,5)
 - See 21 Down.
 - An aid to finding out what the book actually says (7,4)
- DOWN**
- Anger amongst firemen (3)
 - Attack with broken stone (5)
 - Material produced by raising current on moving coil (6)
 - Dye (5)
 - Register how far one is behind in tennis match? (3,4)
 - Being a member of the best class at peak performance? (2,3,4)
 - Fine breeds of freight carriers? (5,6)
 - Is it prepared to give a distillation of a quick answer? (5,6)
 - What MPs may be playing at? (5,4)
 - Called out in hut (7)
 - Ignore such an area (6)
 - Majestic large development (5)
 - 21 and 21Ac. Tightly pack and shake food container (3,3)

QUICK CLUES

19. Trainee (5)
20. Experimental (9)
21. Also (3)
22. Ruling (11)
13. Motorists (7)
14. By (6)
16. Process (6)
18. Co-operation (7)
5. Vigorously (7)
6. Afflicted (9)
7. Chance (11)
8. Supposition (11)
12. Teetotaler (9)
15. Demobilise (7)
17. Feeble (6)
19. Unsolved (5)
21. Sunburn (3)



Yesterday's solutions

- QUICK**
- ACROSS: 1 Tack; 3 Occupant; 9 Equable; 10 Realm; 11 Premeditated; 13 Safety; 15 Sorrow; 17 Manipulation; 20 Asted; 21 Doleful; 22 Accident; 23 Grid.
- DOWN: 1 Trepass; 2 Crude; 4 Credit; 5 Unreasonable; 6 Amateur; 7 Tomb; 8 Absent-minded; 12 Swindled; 14 Frantic; 16 Sudden; 18 Infer; 19 Saga.
- CRYPTIC**
- ACROSS: 1 Tack; 3 Dressing; 9 Aniseed; 10 Ochre; 11 Chess-players; 13 Powers; 15 Beetle; 17 Cosmopolitan; 20 Roman; 21 Curable; 22 Punished; 23 Lets.
- DOWN: 1 Seascape; 2 Agile; 4 Riddle; 5 Shooey-tellers; 6 Inhabited; 7 Glee; 8 Measurements; 12 Reinters; 14 Woodman; 16 Apache; 18 Table; 19 Drop.

